

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10-20 and 22-66 are pending in the application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges allowance of claims 19, 20, 22-48 and 58-66 and allowability of claims 5, 7, 11 and 13-17. By present amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10-18, and 49-57 have been canceled. New claims 67-91 based on the allowable subject matter have been added. No new matter is presented. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Dependent claims 22-24 have been objected to because they depend on canceled claim 21. Claims 22-24 have been amended to depend from independent claim 20 which has been indicated by the Examiner to be allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 18, and 49-57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Clerc et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,860,900). Applicant respectfully traverses. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant will proceed with the allowed claims and reserve further argument in a continuation application in connection with the rejected claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges allowance of claims 19, 20, 22-48 and 58-66. Claims 5, 7, 11, and 13-17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant is presenting new independent claim 67, which is a combination of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 5. Since claim 5 is deemed to contain allowable subject matter, it is respectfully urged that new independent claim 67 is allowable. Further, new claims 68-73 depend from new independent claim 67 and also are believed to be allowable.

New independent claim 74 is a combination of claims 1 and 7, with allowable subject matter indicated in claim 7. Accordingly, it is believed that new independent claim 74 is allowable. Further, new claims 75-80 depend from claim 74 and also are allowable.

New independent claim 81 is a combination of claims 1, 12 and 13, with allowable subject matter indicated in claim 13. Accordingly, it is believed that new independent claim 81 is allowable. Further, dependent claims 82-87 depend from independent claim 81 and also are believed to be allowable. Original claims 14-17 that were dependent from the original claim 13 and that the Examiner indicated to be allowable have been canceled and rewritten as claims 88-91 which are dependent from claim 81, and therefore, also are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All presently pending claims 19-20, 22-48 and 58-91 are based on the claims indicated to be allowed or allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a prompt issuance of the Notice of Allowance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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